

Low Vision and Aging

(See also: [Assistive Technology](#) and [Disabilities and Aging](#))

Vision impairment is a common occurrence among school children and adults of all ages. For many there are choices for correction – eyeglasses, contact lens and laser surgery to compensate or eliminate the most common conditions. It is estimated that over 600,000 laser vision correction procedures were performed in the United States in 1999 for myopia (near-sightedness), astigmatism or hyperopia (farsightedness). Surgical replacement of the cornea has long been an option for many older adults with cataracts. The process of aging, however, also increases the risk of more serious conditions such as glaucoma and macular degeneration. Approximately 1.8 million non-institutionalized elderly report some difficulty with basic activities such as bathing, dressing, and walking around the house, in part because they are visually impaired. Visual impairment increases the risk of falls and fractures, making it more likely that an older person will be admitted to a hospital or nursing home, be disabled, or die prematurely. Internet sites here describe the prevalence of conditions among older adults, offer information to the general consumer on early detection and treatment, identify federal government programs of assistance, link to non-governmental organizations that focus on vision, and identify other resources of benefit to the visually impaired.

- [Consumer Information](#)
 - [Government Programs](#)
 - [Assistance Organizations and Sites](#)
 - [Information Resources & Promotion Materials](#)
 - [Statistics](#)
 - [Reports](#)
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Consumer Information

Aging and Your Eyes

(National Institute on Aging)

<http://209.70.85.4/engagepages/eyes.asp>

Aging and Vision Loss: An Introduction

(American Federation for the Blind)

http://www.afb.org/info_document_view.asp?documentid=1357

Services for Older Persons Who are Blind or Visually Disabled

(American Foundation for the Blind)

http://www.afb.org/info_document_view.asp?documentid=1242

Vision: Technologies for Independence

(American Society for Aging)

<http://www.asaging.org/ameritech/vision.cfm>

National Eye Institute Free Materials

<http://www.nei.nih.gov/order/index.htm>

What You Should Know about Low Vision

<http://www.nei.nih.gov/nehep/what.htm>

Glossary of Vision Terms

<http://www.nei.nih.gov/health/glossary.htm>

Financial Aid for Eye Care

<http://www.nei.nih.gov/health/financialaid.htm>

Facts about Age Related Macular Degeneration

http://www.nei.nih.gov/health/maculardegen/armd_facts.htm

Facts about Cataract

http://www.nei.nih.gov/health/cataract/cataract_facts.htm

Facts about Dietetic Retinopathy

<http://www.nei.nih.gov/health/diabetic/retinopathy.htm>

Facts about Glaucoma

http://www.nei.nih.gov/health/glaucoma/glaucoma_facts.htm

Medline Plus

(National Library of Medicine)

Vision Disorders and Blindness

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/visiondisordersblindness.html>

Cataract

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/cataract.html>

Macular Degeneration

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/maculardegeneration.html>

Glaucoma

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/glaucoma.html>

What is Glaucoma?

(The Glaucoma Foundation)

http://www.glaucomafoundation.org/education_content.php?i=7

Diabetes and Blindness

(National Federation for the Blind)

<http://www.nfb.org/diabetes.htm>

Eye Floaters and Spots

(All About Vision)

<http://www.allaboutvision.com/conditions/spotsfloats.htm>

Aging with Developmental Disabilities: Changes in Vision

(The ARC)

<http://thearc.org/faqs/visfact.html>

Newsline For The Blind Network®: A Nationwide Newspaper Service for the Blind

(National Federation for the Blind)

<http://www.nfb.org/newsline1.htm>

Government Programs

Disability Information

(Social Security Administration)

<http://www.ssa.gov/disability/>

National Library Service for the Blind and Visually Handicapped

(The Library of Congress)

<http://www.loc.gov/nls/>

Blind and Visually Impaired Division

(Rehabilitation Services Administration, U.S. Department of Education)

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/rsa/bvid.html>

Independent Living Services for Older Individuals Who Are Blind

(Rehabilitation Services Administration, U.S. Department of Education)

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/rsailob/index.html>

Blindness, Disability, And the Social Security Earnings Limit

(National Federation for the Blind)

<http://204.245.133.32/law/newtalk.htm>

Assistance Organizations and Sites

Blindness and Visual Impairments: Information and Advocacy Organizations

(Library of Congress)

<http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/circulars/blindorg2001.html>

Low Vision Gateway

(Low Vision Centers of Indiana)

<http://www.lowvision.org/>

Low Vision And Research Resources by State

(National Federation of the Blind)

A thru I: <http://www.nfb.org/states/aj.htm>

K thru M: <http://www.nfb.org/states/km.htm>

N thru O: <http://www.nfb.org/states/km.htm>

P thru W: <http://www.nfb.org/states/pw.htm>

Organizations

Association of Blind Citizens

<http://www.assocofblindcitizens.org/>

American Council for the Blind

<http://www.acb.org/>

American Foundation for the Blind

<http://www.afb.org/>

The American Printing House for the Blind

<http://www.aph.org/index.html>

American Macular Degeneration Foundation

<http://www.macular.org/eyecare.html>

Center for Research on the Aging Eye

Schepens Eye Research Institute

<http://www.agingeye.org/>

EyeWorld

(American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery)

<http://www.eyeworld.org/>

Glaucoma Foundation

<http://www.glaucomafoundation.org/>

Glaucoma Research Foundation

<http://www.glaucoma.org/>

Guide Dog Schools

<http://www.nfb.org/schools.htm>

Lighthouse International

<http://www.lighthouse.org/>

Lions International

<http://www.lionsclubs.org/>

Vision Programs

http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/vision_index.shtml

Low-Vision Research Group Network

(Emory University)

<http://www.varrd.emory.edu/LVRGNET/index.html>

Macular Degeneration Partnership

<http://www.macd.net/>

National Association for Visually Handicapped

<http://www.navh.org/>

National Federation for the Blind

<http://www.nfb.org/>

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, Inc.

<http://www.rfbd.org/>

Royal National Institute for the Blind (UK)

<http://www.rnib.org.uk/>

Information Resources and Promotion Materials**Diabetic Eye Disease Public Education Program**

National Eye Institute

<http://www.nei.nih.gov/nehep/ded.htm>

Low Vision Education Program

(National Eye Institute)

<http://www.nei.nih.gov/nehep/lowvis.htm>

Glaucoma Public Education Program

(National Eye Institute)

<http://www.nei.nih.gov/nehep/glaucoma.htm>

Making Text Legible Designing for People with Partial Sight

(Lighthouse International)

http://www.lighthouse.org/print_leg.htm

Making Your Web Site Accessible to the Blind

(National Federation of the Blind)

<http://204.245.133.32/tech/webacc.htm>

Reference Circular Reading Materials in Large Print: A Resource Guide

(National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped)

<http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/circulars/largeprint.html>

Statistics

Trends in the Vision and Hearing of Older Americans

(National Center for Health Statistics)

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/agingtrends/02vision.pdf>

Vision Problems in the U.S. – Prevalence of Adult Vision Impairment

And Age Related Eye Disease in America

(National Eye Institute)

<http://www.nei.nih.gov/eyedata/pdf/VPUS.pdf>

Statistics on Vision Impairment: A Resource Manual

(Lighthouse International)

http://www.lighthouse.org/research_statistics.htm

Vision Loss and Aging

(American Society for Aging)

http://www.asaging.org/ameritech/V001_vision_and_aging.html

Visual Disorders and Aging

(American Society for Aging)

http://www.asaging.org/ameritech/V002_visual_disorders.html

Blindness Statistics

(National Federation for the Blind)

<http://www.nfb.org/stats.htm>

Reports

Vision Loss in the 21st Century – Every Body's Business

(American Foundation for the Blind)

<http://www.visionloss2003.org/>

Normal Age-Related Vision Loss and Related Services for the Elderly

(Stephen F. Austin University)

http://hubel.sfasu.edu/research/donia/aging_vision_front.htm

Studies in Adaptation to Age-Related Vision Loss

(Lighthouse International)

http://www.lighthouse.org/research_adaption.htm

Age Related Macular Degeneration

(British Medical Journal)

<http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/321/7274/1425>

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